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August 22, 2007

Secretary Marlene Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch,

Reliable access to the internet has become vital to helping small businesses succeed in an increasingly global economy. Unfortunately, broadband service providers often neglect rural areas, depriving independent businesses a crucial tool needed to stay competitive in an expanding worldwide marketplace. A pillar of the American economy's strength is that it does not discriminate based on locality.

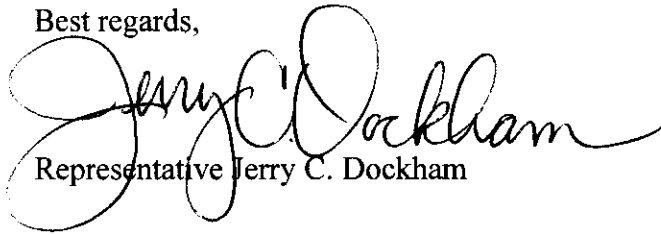
I urge you to support Docket #07-16 and help provide fast, free broadband access to entrepreneurs and small business owners across the country. This proposal will expand opportunities for these businesses to harness the power of the internet for e-commerce, and provide them with a reliable means of increasing their reach to vast new markets.

Madame Secretary, small and independent businesses are the backbone of our country's economy. In the past decade, small businesses have accounted for as much as 80% of the net new jobs created in America. Your support of this proposal is essential to business owners in small communities who have been overlooked in the spread of broadband in our country. By making fast, free internet access available to them, we have the opportunity to ensure that the United States remains a leader in global innovation.

07-16



Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerry C. Dockham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerry" and last name "Dockham" clearly legible. The middle initial "C." is smaller and less distinct. The signature is written over the printed name below it.

Representative Jerry C. Dockham

CC: FCC Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Tate
Commissioner McDowell
Wireless Bureau Chief Fred Campbell
U.S. Senator Richard Burr
U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole
Congressman Howard Coble